

## THIS ISSUE

### Physician Assistant Provider Numbers

#### TO:

Certified Physician Assistants  
Advanced Registered Nurse  
Practitioners  
Clinics  
Emergency Room Physicians  
Hospitals  
Medical Physicians  
Osteopathic Physicians  
Self-Insured Employers

#### CONTACTS:

**Evonne Peryea**  
Health Services Analysis  
PO Box 44322  
Olympia WA 98504-4322

(360) 902-6828  
(360) 902-4249 FAX

**For billing questions contact:**  
**Provider Toll Free**  
1-800-848-0811  
902-6500 in Olympia

## Purpose

This Provider Bulletin pertains to State Fund claims only. It announces changes on how certified physician assistants (PAs) must submit bills to the department for health care services. Effective August 1, 1999 all certified physician assistants who treat industrially injured or ill workers must have their own provider number. There are no changes in the level of reimbursement or department payment policies. **Please circulate this bulletin to all staff and departments that are involved with physician assistant services and billing.**

## What has changed regarding how physician assistants must bill the Department?

**For dates of service on or after August 1, 1999**, physician assistants must use their own provider number on all bills submitted to the department when they personally perform the service. This change is consistent with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-20-015, which requires providers who treat industrially injured or ill workers to obtain and use a provider number when billing for services they perform.

In addition to requiring individual PA provider numbers, the use of modifiers will change. **For dates of service on or after August 1, 1999, the department will no longer accept the following modifiers:**

#### Modifiers

- AU For other than assistant at surgery, in an office setting
- AN For other than assistant at surgery, in a hospital setting
- AS For assistant at surgery

Instead of the above modifiers, PAs should use billing modifiers outlined in the RBRVS Payment Policies Section of the department's *Medical Aid Rules and Fees Schedules*. For example, to bill for Assistant at Surgery, the PA would use modifier 80, 81, or 82, as appropriate.

**Please note, the following department policies and/or rules have not changed:**

Supervising or consulting physicians must still sign Reports of Accident and Reopening Applications as well as forms or letters relating to time loss or vocational services. (See physician responsibilities outlined in RCW 51.28.020, RCW 51.48.060 & RCW 51.32.090.)

For the time being, WAC 296-20-01501 and WAC 296-20-12501, which apply to physician assistants remain in effect. In the future, the department plans to correct the physician assistant title in WAC, from the term “Physician’s Assistant” to the correct title, “Physician Assistant.” The department also plans to update the billing instruction language in WAC 296-20-12501. Interested persons will be notified of the rule making process. **In the meantime, PAs should follow the billing instructions stated in this Provider Bulletin and in the department’s billing instructions.**

## **What must physician assistants do if they do not have a Labor and Industries performing provider number?**

If you have not applied for, or received a provider number, contact the department’s Provider Accounts Section **immediately** at the address below:

Department of Labor and Industries  
Provider Accounts Section  
PO Box 44261  
Olympia, WA. 98504-4261

Also, physician assistants must notify the department if their employer’s tax reporting number changes. This change could be the result of a change in employment, being assigned a new supervising physician, or a change in the employer’s tax number. You can notify the department of these changes by calling Provider Accounts at (360) 902-6605, (360) 902-6543, (360) 902-5307 or (360) 902-6545. Physician assistants who work under several physicians or clinics which have different employer tax numbers are required to have a separate provider number for each employer.

## **When did the department first notify physician assistants that they needed to apply for a provider number?**

The department sent a letter in March, 1999 along with a provider application to all licensed physician assistants in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The department requested they either apply for a provider number or advise the department if they did not plan to treat industrially injured or ill workers.

For physician assistants who applied and were found eligible, the department followed up with a letter notifying physician assistants of their newly assigned provider numbers along with Billing Instructions to help them submit their bills correctly. This information was sent to providers in May and June 1999.

## **Are there any changes to how physician assistants submit bills to the department?**

### **HCFA-1500 forms:**

See the attached example of a HCFA-1500 form which details how this bill form is filled out. Please note: Beginning **August 1, 1999**, PAs must fill in their name and provider number in Box 33 of the HCFA-1500 bill form.

### **Electronic bills:**

Beginning **August 1, 1999**, you must place your physician assistant provider number in the performing provider field in your particular electronic billing format.

### **Physician assistants billing directly under the physician and the physician is the payee:**

The supervising physician’s provider number is placed in the Billing Provider Number Field of the format

and the physician assistant's provider number is placed in the Performing Provider Number Field of the format.

**Physician assistants billing as part of a group and the group is the payee:** The group provider number is placed in the Billing Provider Number Field and the physician assistant's provider number is placed in the Performing Provider Number Field.

This will affect the following formats:

Electronic Medical Claims HCFA Format

RECORD C1 - Field 9	Billing Provider Number
RECORD T1 - Field 11	Performing Provider Number

Medical Tape Format

Record HM - Field 6	Billing Provider Number
Record DM - Field 11	Performing Provider Number

**Providers billing through a billing intermediary:** Please contact your billing intermediary if you are unsure where to place the supervising physician's provider number, the physician assistant's provider number or the group provider number, whichever is applicable.

If you have any questions regarding the use of these fields, please refer to your electronic billing format information, or contact the department's Electronic Billing Unit at (360) 902-6511 or (360) 902-6512.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES  
CLAIMS SECTION  
PO BOX 44269  
OLYMPIA WA 98504-4269

CARRIER

PATIENT AND INSURED INFORMATION

PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INFORMATION -

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE			EXAMPLE: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT			PICA		
1. PATIENT'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial) <b>Smith, Connie</b>			3. PATIENT'S BIRTH DATE MM DD YY <b>01 01 45</b> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1a. INSURED'S I.D. NUMBER (FOR PROGRAM IN ITEM 1) <b>000 - 00 - 0000</b>		
5. PATIENT'S ADDRESS (No., Street) <b>151 Oak Creek Lane</b>			6. PATIENT RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED Self <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			7. INSURED'S ADDRESS (No., Street)		
CITY <b>Morton</b>			8. PATIENT STATUS Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Employed <input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time Student <input type="checkbox"/> Part-Time Student <input type="checkbox"/>			CITY		
STATE <b>WA</b>						STATE		
ZIP CODE <b>98519</b>			TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) <b>(360) 000 - 0000</b>			ZIP CODE		
10. IS PATIENT'S CONDITION RELATED TO: a. EMPLOYMENT? (CURRENT OR PREVIOUS) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO b. AUTO ACCIDENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO c. OTHER ACCIDENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			11. INSURED'S POLICY GROUP OR FECA NUMBER <b>X000000</b>			12. INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH MM DD YY SEX M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>		
13. OTHER INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)			14. IS THERE ANOTHER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If yes, return to and complete item 9 a-d.			15. EMPLOYER'S NAME OR SCHOOL NAME <b>ABC Company Inc</b>		
16. OTHER INSURED'S POLICY OR GROUP NUMBER			17. INSURED'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize payment of medical benefits to the undersigned physician or supplier for services described below.			18. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME		
19. OTHER INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH MM DD YY SEX M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>			20. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE			21. IS THERE ANOTHER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If yes, return to and complete item 9 a-d.		
22. EMPLOYER'S NAME OR SCHOOL NAME			23. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE			24. INSURED'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize payment of medical benefits to the undersigned physician or supplier for services described below.		
25. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME			26. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE			27. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE		
28. PATIENT'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize the release of any medical or other information necessary to process this claim. I also request payment of government benefits either to myself or to the party who accepts assignment below.			29. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE			30. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE		
SIGNED _____ DATE _____			31. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE			32. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE		
33. DATE OF CURRENT ILLNESS (First symptom) OR INJURY (Accident) OR PREGNANCY (LMP) MM DD YY <b>01 31 98</b>			34. IF PATIENT HAS HAD SAME OR SIMILAR ILLNESS, GIVE FIRST DATE: MM DD YY			35. DATES PATIENT UNABLE TO WORK IN CURRENT OCCUPATION FROM MM DD YY TO MM DD YY		
36. NAME OF REFERRING PHYSICIAN OR OTHER SOURCE <b>Xxxxxx Xxxxx MD</b>			37. I.D. NUMBER OF REFERRING PHYSICIAN <b>0000000</b>			38. HOSPITALIZATION DATES RELATED TO CURRENT SERVICES FROM MM DD YY TO MM DD YY		
39. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE			40. OUTSIDE LAB? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO \$ CHARGES			41. MEDICAID RESUBMISSION CODE ORIGINAL REF. NO.		
42. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY, (RELATE ITEMS 1, 2, 3 OR 4 TO ITEM 24E BY LINE) 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____			43. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER			44. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE		
45. FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER <b>00 - 0000000</b>			46. PATIENT'S ACCOUNT NO. <b>Optional</b>			47. ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
48. PHYSICIAN/SUPPLIER SIGNATURE INCLUDING DEGREES OR CREDENTIALS - I certify that I understand & I have reviewed the information contained on the bill is consistent with these instructions and accurate to the best of my knowledge.			49. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE SERVICES WERE RENDERED (If other than home or office)			50. TOTAL CHARGE \$ <b>xxxx xx</b>		
51. SIGNATURE			52. DATE			53. AMOUNT PAID \$		
54. PHYSICIAN'S, SUPPLIER'S BILLING NAME, ADDRESS, ZIP CODE & PHONE # <b>Xxxxxx Xxxxx, PA PO Box 779 Morton, WA 98519 (360)000-0000</b>			55. PIN # <b>00000000</b>			56. GRP # <b>00000000</b>		